

# ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN THE DISTRICT

## **Short-Term Family Housing in Ward 1**

### **Ending Family Homelessness**

The District of Columbia has a plan to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring. We make homelessness rare by preventing homelessness whenever possible through early intervention. We make homelessness **brief** by modernizing our emergency shelter system and wrap around supports to held households get back on their feet as quickly as possible. And we make homelessness **nonrecurring** by investing in the affordable and permanent housing solutions we know work in the long-term. **Our plan is working.** In the last two years, family homelessness has decreased in the District by nearly 40 percent.

#### **Short-term Family Housing**

As part of our strategy to modernize our emergency shelter system, in October 2018 Mayor Bowser delivered on her promise to close the DC General Family Shelter, which had served as the District's largest family shelter. DC General was too big, too old and geographically removed from the services that families experiencing homelessness need to get back on their feet. In its place, the Bowser Administration is building new, dignified, Short-Term Family Housing programs in all 8 wards of the District. Short-term Family Housing provides dignified, service-enriched temporary housing for families with minor children who are experiencing homelessness. Each program will serve up to 50 families a night and will provide the services and supports that families need to obtain permanent housing. These programs are open and serving families in Wards 4, 7, and 8.

#### The Ward 1 Program & Upgrades to Rita Bright

Situated on the northern end of the parcel, 2500 14<sup>th</sup> St NW will be transformed into 50 apartments with an upgraded Rita Bright Recreation Center. The plan calls for:

- **35-units of Short-Term Family Housing with programming space**, including an outdoor recreation play area, indoor play space for children of all ages, a computer lab for residents, and administrative space to provide supportive services;
- 15 new permanent supportive housing apartments for seniors.
- An upgraded and refreshed Rita Bright Family and Youth Center.

#### **Construction Timeline**

Construction is projected to begin in 2019, and conclude in early 2020.

#### **Community Feedback**

To ensure community feedback throughout the design and construction process, the District, in partnership with ANC 1B and community stakeholders, has formed an Advisory Team. The Advisory Team shares community concerns, disseminate information, and will develop a Good Neighbor Protocol between the community and Short-Term Family Housing Program.

#### **Learn More!**

For more information on Mayor Bowser's plan to close and replace DC General, please visit <u>mayor.dc.gov/HomewardDC</u> or email <u>dmhhs@dc.gov</u>.

